

JIM NUSSLE, IOWA
CHAIRMAN

JIM RYUN, KANSAS
ANDER CRENSHAW, FLORIDA
ADAM H. PUTNAM, FLORIDA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
KENNY C. HULSHOF, MISSOURI
JO BONNER, ALABAMA
SCOTT GARRETT, NEW JERSEY
J. GRESHAM BARRETT, SOUTH CAROLINA
THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER, MICHIGAN
MARIO DIAZ-BALART, FLORIDA
JEB HENSARLING, TEXAS
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
DANIEL E. LUNGREN, CALIFORNIA
PETE SESSIONS, TEXAS
PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN
MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, IDAHO
JEB BRADLEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PATRICK T. MCENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
CHRIS CHOCOLA, INDIANA



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Washington, DC 20515-6065

September 15, 2005

JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., SOUTH CAROLINA
RANKING MEMBER
DENNIS MOORE, KANSAS
RICHARD E. NEAL, MASSACHUSETTS
ROSA L. DE LAURO, CONNECTICUT
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS
HAROLD E. FORD, JR., TENNESSEE
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA
BRIAN BAIRD, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
ARTUR DAVIS, ALABAMA
WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, LOUISIANA
THOMAS H. ALLEN, MAINE
ED CASE, HAWAII
CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, GEORGIA
HENRY CUELLAR, TEXAS
ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ, PENNSYLVANIA
RON KIND, WISCONSIN

THOMAS S. KAHN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL
(202) 226-7200

JAMES T. BATES, CHIEF OF STAFF
(202) 226-7270

6 in 10 Americans Agree With Democrats: Delay Further Tax Cuts

Dear Democratic Colleague:

Even amid the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Congressional Republicans pledged last week to move forward with large tax cuts and spending cuts to vital programs under reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution. While they have delayed the deadline for these cuts by a few weeks, Republicans remain committed to a budgetary blueprint that cuts taxes for the most fortunate, cuts programs helping the most vulnerable, and adds \$35 billion to the deficit.

Congressional Democrats have urged our Republican colleagues to suspend indefinitely the spending and revenue measures required by reconciliation. On September 13, the *Washington Post* reported the results of an ABC News/Washington Post poll in which 59 percent of respondents agreed with Democrats that the additional tax cuts called for under reconciliation should be put off.

Our nation is now facing three years of record deficits with ongoing costly military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and with the cost to the federal budget of the response to Hurricane Katrina yet to be determined. In light of these fiscal challenges, it is no surprise that an overwhelming majority of Americans agree with Democrats that we should not rush to enact tax cuts for the well-off that worsen the burgeoning deficit.

If you have any questions about reconciliation or the budget, please don't hesitate to call me or the House Budget Committee's Democratic staff.

Sincerely,

John M. Spratt, Jr.
Ranking Democratic Member